

EPA Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilot

Fort Dodge, IA

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5105)

Quick Reference Fact Sheet

EPA's Brownfields Economic Redevelopment Initiative is designed to empower states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic redevelopment to work together in a timely manner to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield is a site, or portion thereof, that has actual or perceived contamination and an active potential for redevelopment or reuse. EPA is funding: assessment demonstration pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to assess brownfields sites and to test cleanup and redevelopment models; job training pilot programs (each funded up to \$200,000 over two years), to provide training for residents of communities affected by brownfields to facilitate cleanup of brownfields sites and prepare trainees for future employment in the environmental field; and, cleanup revolving loan fund programs (each funded up to \$500,000 over five years) to capitalize loan funds to make loans for the environmental cleanup of brownfields. These pilot programs are intended to provide EPA, states, tribes, municipalities, and communities with useful information and strategies as they continue to seek new methods to promote a unified approach to site assessment, environmental cleanup, and redevelopment.

BACKGROUND

EPA has selected the City of Fort Dodge for a Brownfields Pilot. Fort Dodge is a city that has a population of 26,000 people and serves as a regional hub for about 100,000 people. Due to a devastated farm economy and the closing of a few of its large employers, the city experienced a very depressed economy in the 1970s and 1980s. Property values plummeted, and about 17 percent of the population left the city to find work in urban areas of larger cities and states. Since the mid-1990s, when community effort helped reverse a decision to close down a major employer, community pride and motivation have been high. The city has added new industry, diversified into value-added production, and begun a cleanup initiative.

The major redevelopment focus of the city is to make its river corridor clean and safe for recreational use through its riverfront master plan. As the first step in the riverfront improvement plan, the Pilot will target three brownfield sites—Volunteer Park Junkyard (12th Avenue, SW), Soldier Creek Dump (5th Street), and the Hawkeye Avenue Elevator—all located along the Des Moines River or Soldier Creek and in the

PILOT SNAPSHOT



Fort Dodge, IA

Date of Announcement:
May 2000

Amount: \$200,000

Profile: The City of Fort Dodge targets three sites within the city, all located along waterways in the greenbelt corridor system.

Contacts:

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Regional Brownfields Team
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Visit the EPA Region 7 Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/region07/specinit/brown/brownfields.htm>

For further information, including specific Pilot contacts, additional Pilot information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

greenbelt corridor system. In addition, the sites are located in the city's oldest neighborhoods and are characterized as low-income areas (e.g., 24 percent of the families live in poverty).

OBJECTIVES

The City of Fort Dodge's goal is to complete the riverfront redevelopment project, which includes streambank stabilization, pond restoration, development of a footbridge, and encouragement of a private property owner to donate its riverfront property. The Pilot will facilitate these efforts by identifying any contamination problems in the project area and planning for cleanup at three targeted brownfields.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Activities planned as part of this pilot include:

- Conducting Phase I and II site investigations to determine whether the three targeted sites pose risks and need to be cleaned up;
- Developing cleanup and mitigation plans at the targeted sites; and
- Engaging community participation in the assessment and cleanup planning at the targeted sites.

The cooperative agreement for this Pilot has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.